

0060-1

Document 0060

Dear Ms. Russell:

Fresno, CA, like Imperial, CA, has an extremely high rate of childhood asthma because of air that is highly polluted by local sources. Because of this, I am incredulous that there is any consideration on the part of the DOE to grant presidential permits to Semptra Energy and Intergen without requiring them to mitigate the impact of the power plants.

I find the on-going disregard of public well-being in these kinds of decisions to be unconscionable. Please reassure me that the DOE will help keep the health and welfare of human beings on both sides of this national border as a higher priority than the industrial enterprises that will benefit only a few. While we seem to need power, we do not need to have it at the unnecessary expense of the health of innocent citizens of two nations.

Thank you.

David E. Roy, Ph.D.

0059-1

Document 0059

Ellen Russell  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,

Please do not issue any permits to U.S power companies operating across the border in Mexico until they prove that they will meet the same high air and water quality pollution standards that are required of US companies.

Sincerely,  
Neil Kraus, D.C.

0062-1

Document 0062

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

Once again U.S. power plant developers and operators are looking to exploit the less stringent air quality standards in Mexico to line their pockets at the expense of public health and the environment on both sides of the border. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) must demand that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the harmful impacts of their power plants before granting the needed permits. Further, the DOE should condition any permits granted on mitigation accompanied by monitoring and reporting.

People living along the U.S.-Mexico border already suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. I don't understand why their situation is to be worsened so Americans can consume cheaper electricity.

Just think about it. If there were plans to create such power plants just over the border into Canada to ship cheap electricity into the United States, the Canadian government would never stand for it. And the Canadians living along the border would never stand for it. It because it's Mexico and Mexicans -- because they are poorer and weaker and because the health of Mexicans doesn't seem important to them -- that these corporations think they can get away with such an outrage. If that isn't exploitation at its ugliest, I don't know what is.

Sincerely,

Mary Warren  
215 S. Prospect St.  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

0061-1

0061-2

Document 0061

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Intergen failed to install advanced NOx controls on one of its export turbines on start-up in June, 2003. Hundreds of tons of NOx beyond what had been estimated when DOE initially granted Intergen a permit were therefore released. This incident proves that, in addition to adequate mitigation measures, ongoing monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions in the presidential permits are vital.

The draft EIS prepared by DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these impacts do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.

I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Marie Le Boeuf  
851 South Kihei Rd. #O-115  
Kihei, Hawaii 96753

0064-1

Document 0064

Ellen Russell  
NEPA Document Manager  
Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585-0350

Dear Ellen Russell,

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent environmental standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment.

I ask that Semptra Energy and Intergen NOT be granted presidential permits. (If so, I ask that DOE condition any permits on excellent mitigation, considering the the health and well-being of people on both sides of the border.)

Childhood asthma in the US and Mexico is rising at an alarming rate. Clean air needs to be a basic right, part of our right to health and dignity.

The DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Semptra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

The DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.

I urge you to craft excellent air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based upon them.

Sincerely,  
Vanessa Pinter

0063-1

Document 0063

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

Californians have been robbed by power companies such as Enron and El Paso who were allowed to create a power crisis and now the same DOE that allowed that wants to spread murky air so that our many years of work to clean our air are negated. Our state laws regarding air pollution will make it necessary for our own industries to make up the difference in clean air! If I were running a company in California I'd be very, very angry.

Sincerely,

Teddi Curtis  
1027 Oakdale  
Corona, California 92880

## Document 0065

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am writing to urge the Department of Energy not to approve the presidential permits requested by Sempra Energy and InterGen to transmit power from their plants in Mexico across the border into California.

I believe these companies built plants in Mexico to take advantage of less stringent and less costly air and water quality control standards, with the intention of sending the power to the U.S. where the profit margin is higher. What benefits the economic interests of these companies certainly does not benefit the health and well-being of residents on both sides of the border.

Giving these plants permission to transmit power to the U.S., without requiring air and water quality mitigation, will encourage the development of other U.S. power plants in Mexico, further endangering the public's health and the environment. We cannot allow plants that violate U.S. emission standards to provide power to the U.S., and to operate in a way that compromises air and water quality in California.

I have read that the DOE's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for these two power plants identifies significant air and water impacts but, even so, concludes that these problems are not of a high enough level to require mitigation. The DOE must develop adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final Environmental Impact Statement and in any permits resulting from the statement. How can we as a nation, in good conscience, put our disadvantaged neighbors at risk, not to mention our own citizens?

Sincerely,

Carol S. Goodwin  
Project Management Consultant  
Specializing in Health & Aging  
carol@goodwinhall.com  
914-968-8006 (phone/fax)  
914-906-1787 (cell)  
72 Lawrence Street  
Yonkers, NY 10705-3302

## Document 0066

Dear DOE – Office of Electric Power Regulation,  
United States Representative Bob Filner,

This letter is in regards to the proposed power lines coming from the area near Mexicali Mexico into the Imperial Valley of California. Powerful power companies such as Sempra and Baja California Power should not be able to circumvent United States of America regulations and standards by simply moving their power plants 3 miles into Mexico. I am a local high school math teacher and I know that we have a much higher asthma rate in our valley and that unchecked pollution a couple miles away will exacerbate the health conditions of our local United States citizens. No approval or Presidential Permit of any kind should be made without both Sempra Energy and Baja California Power having to fulfill specific items completely for the safety, security, well-being, and Environmental Justice of the American Citizen that live in the Imperial Valley. Any Presidential Permit should contain regulations that force the power plants that are 3 miles just south of our boarder to operate at United States standards with regard to all pollution, mitigation offsets, and environmental impacts. **If any power plant generating power into the united Sates is not operating at United States Pollution control standards then the power line coming into the United States should be disconnected immediately.** California and surrounding areas need power we just don't need power companies that operate power generating facilities without any pollution controls dumping hugh amounts of pollution into the local air of the Imperial Valley, **which by the way is already occurring at a plant we are talking about.** It is clear that these companies will generate power without proper pollution controls due to the fact that they all ready are! The pollution from these power plants comes directly into our US air space due to the typography of our bowl shaped valley. The power companies are out to make a profit and to do so they must have electricity moving over their generating lines. DOE and the Presidential Permit should also contain a comprehensive monitoring plan of the Imperial Valleys air and water qualities. The power Companies should also invest in the Imperial Valleys projects to offset the pollution from the plants "note: the US standards of pollution". Additionally, DOE should insist that the power plants add dry cooling systems to control the negative impact that the New River and Salton Sea.

If the items mention above are not implemented then it will be almost impossible for individual local United States Citizens, city, county and state governments to have legal redress from these companies when they: 1) pollute the

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Imperial Valley's air above United States Standards, 2) cause negative impacts on the health and welfare of the United States Citizens that live in this area, and 3)

Every issue comes down to some simple truths: 1) we need the power and we understand we will have extra pollution because of it but not at the unchecked, unenforceable levels that they will be able to operate at in Mexico, 2) the main difference between Mexico's legal system and our own is that ours places a much higher emphasis on individual rights which will be eliminated without proper regulation by the DOE, legislative bodies, and included in the proposed Presidential Permit, 3) I can keep my 1 year old son Steve, who has received breathing treatments, out of the New River "the most polluted dangerous water way in America" but I can't stop the pollution from those plants from entering his lungs.

You need to ask the question, "Why would these profit driven power companies not put their power plants 3 miles north on United States soil?". The answer is clearly to avoid US standards and regulations. Please to not let this happen. The tenth amendment to the United States of America reads: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." No law, regulation or lack of, Presidential Permit or lack of restriction there in should take away our Constitutional power of self-representation and legal redress to unregulated pollution that we had control over in the issuing / permit process. We can't tell Mexico or other similar big multinational companies how to act, just take a swim in the New River to figure that out but we can control our borders and preserve our nations individuals, cities, counties, and states rights.

Sincerely,



David Weldon – Southwest H.S. Math Dept.  
612 South G Street  
Imperial, CA, 92251

7/30/04

## Document 0067

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

I am writing because I am very angry about the questionable actions being considered with regard to the building of two power plants in Mexico to produce power for California. This is a CLEAR CIRCUMVENTION of our nation's air pollution laws. If the Department of Energy should approve this proposal I feel it simply demonstrates once again how the Bush Administration is in the pockets of Big Energy. Please do not approve this project!

There is absolutely no way that you can present a believable case that the location of these plants just over the border in Mexico is not designed to do an end-run around US law. These US power plant developers are acting unethically to take advantage of less stringent standards of air and other environmental protections in Mexico. They should not be allowed to profit in this way at the expense of public health and the environment.

Therefore, I implore the Department of Energy to require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

All I hear about is the incredibly poor air quality of the Imperial Valley in California. The worst air in the nation. High Asthma rates. Attempts in the news to rein in emissions, such as from the exhaust of tractors for example. Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water.

DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border. And the pollution emitted in Mexico simply is blown into the already horribly polluted south central California region! It would be stupid to allow this to occur, and unconscionable for this project to move forward with its egregious impacts on health both north as well as south of the border.

Water diversion accentuates New River and Salton Sea salinity, and reduces the volume of the Sea, exposing more shoreline to wind erosion, resulting in up to 100 tons per year of additional particulate matter. Retrofitting the existing wet cooling systems with parallel wet-dry cooling would greatly reduce consumptive water use at the plants while allowing the plants to generate full power on hot days. The parallel wet-dry option would also restore most of the river's flow to the sea and minimize particulate matter. Processing wastewater to reduce or eliminate salinity prior to discharge into the river would effectively address a pollutant of concern for the river and the sea.

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(cont.)

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Document 0068

Ms. Ellen Russell

Dear Ms. Russell,

Power plants built just a few miles over the Mexico-USA border for all intensive purposes may as well be in the United States. Ozone and smoke don't care about manmade borders between countries. Even if you don't care about hte health of our neighbors to the south, care about Americans who live in border towns. They deserve the same protections as if the power plant were on our side of the border. This is a shameless move to circumvent environmental standards. I guarantee that if the power plant executives lived in the border cities, they would be more careful.

I am very concerned about U.S. power plant developers taking advantage of less stringent standards in Mexico to profit at the expense of public health and the environment. I ask that the Department of Energy require that Sempra Energy and Intergen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before granting presidential permits, and that DOE condition any permits on mitigation.

Communities along the U.S.-Mexico border suffer from poor air quality and scarcity of clean water. Imperial County, California, has the highest childhood asthma rate in the state. Pulmonary sickness rates are also elevated in Mexicali, a city of 600,000 just south of Imperial County in Mexico. DOE's failure to insist on emission offsets for nitrogen oxide (NOx) and particulate emissions from Intergen's La Rosita Power Complex and Sempra's Termoelectrica de Mexicali threatens the health and well-being of highly stressed communities on both sides of the border.

Intergen failed to install advanced NOx controls on one of its export turbines on start-up in June, 2003. Hundreds of tons of NOx beyond what had been estimated when DOE initially granted Intergen a permit were therefore released. This incident proves that, in addition to adequate mitigation measures, ongoing monitoring, reporting, and enforcement provisions in the presidential permits are vital.

The two power plants divert tremendous amounts of low salinity water from the New River to evaporative cooling towers -- water that would otherwise flow to the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County, California. The Salton Sea suffers from increasing salinity that may ultimately jeopardize its status as one of the most important migratory bird habitats in the West. Approximately 3.5 billion gallons per year of water are evaporated by the power plants that would otherwise moderate the Sea's salinity problem and increase flow in the New River, while nearly 1 billion gallons of high salinity wastewater are dumped into the river.

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0068-2

The draft EIS prepared by DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies these and other significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these impacts do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these impacts further demonstrates the need for impact mitigation and conditional permitting.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.

I urge the DOE to impose adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon. The only ethical action DOE can take is to head off this end-run around our nation's pollution control requirements. The DOE must effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Bryan Wyberg  
12854 Raven Street NW  
Coon Rapids, Minnesota 55448

0069-1

Document 0069

I object to the effort by Sempra Energy and InterGen to dodge U.S. environmental regulation by building electrical power plants in Mexico near the border and transmitting the electricity across the border to be sold here. Air pollution has no respect for borders. Please require that Sempra Energy and InterGen mitigate the impacts of their power plants before being granted presidential permits.

Joan Howe  
955 Massachusetts Ave #196  
Cambridge, MA 02139

0068-3

The draft EIS prepared by DOE for these two power plants clearly identifies these and other significant air and water impacts, while at the same time concluding that these impacts do not reach a sufficient level of significance to require mitigation. DOE misapplies U.S. air quality regulations, ignores the Colorado River Basin water quality ceiling of 4,000 mg/l salinity, and ignores impacts in Mexico when inclusion of these impacts further demonstrates the need for impact mitigation and conditional permitting.

DOE should not place the economic interests of U.S. power developers ahead of the public health of U.S. and Mexican citizens living in the vicinity of these plants, nor ahead of the need to protect the New River, an important source of fresh water for the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. I urge you to craft adequate air and water quality mitigation measures in the final EIS and in any permits based thereon, that effectively address the air and water quality impacts caused by these two power plants.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lamberti  
254 Greencroft Ave.  
Glendora, California 91741